



Chief Dale Ekins

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THE BIG PICTURE

I look back at how things have changed for me since I joined the fire service some 40 years ago. I remember being voted on to Lehi's volunteer fire department. I was just married for a few years and worked with my father at Lehi Drug. My goal at that time was to be a business owner and be my own boss. After joining the fire department I was excited about the service we offered to our citizens. Our training was on Wednesday night at 6:30. The siren sounded and we had an hour of "training". This usually consisted of a lecture on some fire topic taught by one of the other volunteers. The training was not comprehensive but for us it was enough to keep us somewhat safe and it was the best that any volunteer fire department got at that time. We did not have pagers to alert us of a fire incident, just a siren on the top of a power pole near our fire station. Most of our volunteers lived within a mile of the fire station because you couldn't hear the siren if you lived farther than that. Lehi was not very large. Our town was not much larger than a square mile.

My role when the siren sounded was to get to the station as soon as I could. (I would bolt out of the back of my dad's store and run down the back alley to the station). I was usually one of the first to arrive and would jump on the brush truck and drive to the incident. We needed two firefighters on that pickup truck to roll. Everything from house fires to brush fires would be attacked by our inch and a half line and the limited amount of water that was on that small truck. We were the first responders and thought nothing about water supply, RIT, incident command, PPE protection or many of the procedures we have today to safely and effectively attack the different fires we encountered. We were there in a timely manner to knock the fire down and wait for help to arrive from the other volunteers. We luckily did not sustain any serious injuries or deaths during our early years of response.

I didn't worry about budgets, training, OSHA, worker's compensation, policies, or who was going to fix the pump on our engine when things wore out. It was a time when my involvement was strictly a "worker bee" and that is all that I concerned myself with. Someone else had the responsibility to take care of the management and direction of our department. The Chief took care of hiring, maintenance of our equipment, personnel, training, injuries and everything else that was involved in the management of the fire department. At that time, we were not tasked with the area of emergency medical care in our city. We had other volunteers that handled that area.

Just as I trusted others to handle the many other responsibilities that were needed to run our smaller department, today we all have our roles that we focus on and fill a need in our more

advanced department. The same holds true with respect to the “big picture” of our current fire department.

Our current fire department has progressed to the most current professional fire department in our county. We have embraced emergency medical services and provide a number of other specialized training for our city which they expect and deserve. Our jobs have gotten more specialized and complicated with everything we are required to do. There is still a “big picture” with many issues that our firefighters do not concern themselves with. Our firefighters today are highly specialized with certifications in firefighting, wild land fire (very different from structure/vehicle firefighting), hazardous materials, trench rescue, rope rescue, building collapse, ice rescue, high angle rescue, and terrorism. These current expectations along with our most common calls being emergency medical requests keep our firefighters busy with a work load that is challenging at times.

My job has changed from the everyday rewarding and exciting calls to administration of our department. My focus now is on personnel, policy and procedures; the politics of promoting our departmental financial needs to keep up our equipment viable and maintained. I am a liaison for our firefighters with regard to their wages and benefits as well as a representative for our city regarding our fire department. The administrative job is as important as the job I had when I first joined our volunteer department but a lot different in scope. I appreciate your support and understanding of the job I now have. Both jobs are necessary and important in order for our department goals to be met. The “Big Picture” needs to be recognized by all players in order for co-operation and understanding of the necessity and importance of all involved in our vocation. You will understand it better as you or your crew members progress in the fire service and are promoted to leadership status. Let us work to make our jobs fun, safe and professional.



April Birthdays

- ◆ TIM ROBINSON 4/9
- ◆ JUSTIN WHATCOTT 4/20
- ◆ TIM W. ROBINSON 4/21

OPEN BURN SEASON 2013

The 2013 open burn season begins March 30 and ends May 30, 2013. New rules from the Department of Air Quality have opened up burning for 60 days in the spring and 45 days in the fall which runs from September 15 through October 31. Also new this year applicants are required to sign onto the DEQ website <http://www.airquality.utah.gov/Compliance/OpenBurning/index.htm> and fill out an application which is forwarded to the fire department for issuance of the permit.

Open burning may be one of the first things that come to a person's mind while cleaning up their yards from the long winter. While it is still allowed in most cities in Utah County, there are becoming fewer cities that allow open burning. Open burning has its disadvantages; the combustion process releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, other gases, and solid substances directly into the air for people to breathe. Not too many days go by without reading articles about the polluted air in Utah County.

There are times when open burning is the best or only option. Backyard burning is allowed only on residential properties. Even then, there are limits on what can be burned and when, as well as important public health and safety requirements. The DEQ and fire department limits open burning for public health and safety reasons. Open burning pollutes the air and can make it difficult for people with respiratory problems to breathe. When the air is stagnant, open burning can pose smoke and odor nuisances - and health risks - to nearby residents, particularly in densely populated areas. Open burning can also pose a safety risk when it is not adequately controlled.

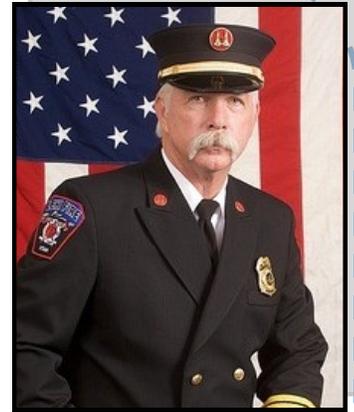
Because weather and environmental conditions change daily, some days during the burn period may not be approved DEQ burn days which is why it is important that residents call the burn line before burning. If environmental conditions prohibit burning on any of the planned burn days there will be no makeup days and residents will be required to haul their piles of material to the landfill.

As firefighters we are tasked with the assignment of policing the open burn season. If you are asked to inspect a debris pile in someone's back yard or are investigating a fire, the first question you should ask is, do you have a permit? Everyone that has a permit also has a set of rules. Make sure they have called the burn line to ensure that it is a burn day. Encourage residents to promote efficient burning to prevent excessive smoke by practicing good burn practices: Assure that all combustible materials are as dry as possible; loosely stack or place the combustible material in small piles to eliminate dirt, rocks and other noncombustible material and to promote an adequate air supply to the burn pile; and periodically restack or feed the burn pile to ensure that combustion is robust and completed efficiently.

Below are guidelines about open burning and offers those residents issued a permit rules on how to do it right. A general rule is, if it is grown on the property it can be burned on the property with the exception of large trees and stumps. Sometimes we have to explain that these guidelines are based on DEQ rules and enforced by them.

Guidelines

1. The permit is issued to the property address.
2. The applicant must be in legal control of the property on which the burning is to take place.
3. Only clippings, bushes, plants, fence lines and ditches, incident to property clean-up and dry grasses can be burned. Yard Clean up only. **NO LARGE BRANCHES OR TREE STUMPS.**
4. Materials to be burned are to be thoroughly dry. Only items grown on the property can be burned on the property.



Fire Marshal Kerry Evans

5. **Call 374-BURN (374-2876)** each day to establish that it is a legal burn day. Burning may start at daylight and shall be extinguished completely before dark, cold to the touch.
6. Fires shall be extinguished immediately upon a nuisance complaint from any source.
7. Burning shall not be done when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fire hazardous; i.e. when high or moderate winds are present or a RED FLAG DAY.
8. Fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person with a means to extinguish the fire, such as a garden hose or other extinguishing materials. (i.e. fire extinguisher, dirt, sand, water bucket.)
9. A “safe distance,” minimum of 50 feet from any building, structure or other combustible material shall be maintained. **Exception:** if the pile is less than 3 feet in diameter and less than 2 feet high, the minimum distance shall be 25 feet from structures or other combustible materials. Such burning shall not pose a threat to Wildland-Urban Interface lands.
10. This permit is non-transferable to another person or property.

The permit issued for cleaning yards and cannot be used for burning manufactured items such as: tires, industrial waste, construction materials, coated wire, plastics, household trash or rubbish or any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors. Oil or fuel products cannot be used to start fires or be included in materials to be burned. Items not grown on the property cannot be burned. The burn permit cannot be used by contractors for the use of clearing land for development of residential, commercial or industrial projects.

Agricultural Burn Permits

Agricultural permits are issued to residents that have an ongoing horticultural or agricultural operation. These permits are valid for one year. The Fire Marshal issues all agriculture permits after determining that these areas are correctly zoned.

DEQ exempts residents from agriculture burn permits but Lehi City’s ordinance 8.12.080 requires a permit. Residents are still required to call the local fire department but can burn on non-burn days.

Agricultural burning can:

1. Burn incident to horticulture or agricultural operations which include ditches, fences, fields.
2. Pruning from trees, bushes and plant.
3. Dead or diseased trees, bushes and plants including stubble.
4. Burning of weed growth along ditch banks incident to clearing ditches for irrigation.
5. Controlled heating of orchards.

Burning permits are subject to the laws of the State of Utah and Lehi City and the conditions stated upon or attached to the permit. The Lehi City Fire Department reserves the right to refuse, revoke or postpone the permit when the fire department deems it necessary to prevent danger to life or property. An open burning permit shall give permission to burn only under prescribed conditions. The permit shall in no way relieve any individual from personal liability due to neglect or negligence. Any person responsible for the existence or spread of fire necessitating suppression action shall be liable for the payment of costs.

Recreational Fires

“**Recreational Fire**” means the burning of materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and with a total fuel area of three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking or similar purposes.

Recreational fires as defined in this section with the following restrictions:

1. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or other combustible material unless contained in a barbeque pit.
2. Charcoal burners, liquefied-petroleum-gas burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within ten (10) feet of combustible construction.

Exceptions: (1) One- and two-family dwellings.

(2) Where buildings and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

3. Buckets, shovels, garden hoses or a fire extinguisher with a minimum 5 lb-ABC rating shall be readily available for extinguishment.
4. Barbeque pits in outdoor locations. Barbeque pits shall be constructed of concrete or approved noncombustible materials, and shall not be located within ten (10) feet of combustible walls or roofs or other combustible material.
5. Other outdoor cooking facilities meeting the approval of the Fire Chief.
6. Other open fires, fireworks, torches or open burnings specifically allowed for under another portion of the Lehi City Code after obtaining any necessary permits and/or approval of the Fire Chief.

In firefighters terms recreational fires are basically camp fires in back yards. They do not need a permit but the fire can be no larger than 3 feet in diameter with flames no higher than 2 feet. For example, small fire used for cooking a hotdog or marshmallow.

Recreational fires must be put out if there is a complaint from any source.

Call Totals for the Month of April...

Station 81

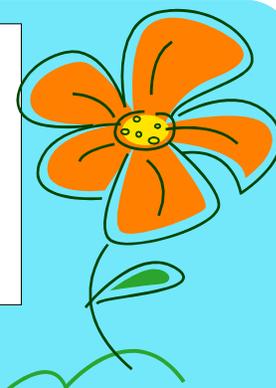
Fire: 26
Medical: 71
Total: 97



Station 82

Fire: 20
Medical: 40
Total: 60

Association Easter Egg Hunt



Utah Valley Metro Special Response Team Update



Captain Tim Robinson

The most recent direction from the Utah Valley Metro Special Response Team (SRT) leadership group is to have Lehi Fire Department specialize in trench rescue. The reason for this is to ensure the team functions at the highest level as funding continues to decrease. The monthly training that involved the whole team will likely occur only two or three times a year. Having department specific assignments will allow the SRT to operate with trained and certified personnel in key positions in the event of an SRT call out. The response and activation protocol will remain the same, but the nature of the call will allow trained departments to put their personnel into key positions required for the call. For example, if a trench rescue is needed, Lehi personnel will be expected to run the call with our personnel in leadership positions required for trench rescue. Of course every call is adaptable to specific needs and assignments given by the incident commander. Provo has been assigned structure collapse, Orem has Haz-Mat/Confined Space and rope rescue, Pleasant Grove will join Orem to assist with Haz-Mat/Confined Space. This requires Lehi SRT members to excel in trench rescue. I am confident with this assignment; because of your dedication to training.

With that being said, Captain Beck and I will not limit the capacity of our department. Our goal is to continue training in all disciplines. Training opportunities that aid personnel to progress and improve the team's capability will be a priority. Other agencies will be invited to participate in scheduled training to promote organized responses to surrounding jurisdictions and SRT participating agencies. I appreciate everyone on the department who has put forth extra effort to perform outside their comfort zone while training as a department. We will continue to provide training in an effort to have everyone to an operation level in all disciplines.

Many of you may have participated in the ice rescue class Captain Beck, and Paramedic Frazier put on this winter. This was a coordinated effort to supplement Saratoga Springs response to ice rescue incidents, which in turn aids Lehi City's response as well. The Utah State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) participated in several trainings to ensure the training was at the level they required. Participation from resources such as DNR and search and rescue help develop relationships that keep communication open, and promote better response plans for the patient. We will continue to progress with water rescue operations throughout the next year.

We now have Haz-Mat technicians available on each shift. Congratulations to the personnel who completed the required technician training last year. Your effort not only benefits the team, but makes you a valuable asset to Lehi Fire Department. Captain Peterson will continue to make training available to all Haz-Mat technicians, and we will ensure our personnel have the opportunity to attend.

We have recently purchased new rescue equipment that will allow us to broaden are scope while operating on specialized rescue calls. Most of the equipment should be familiar to those who have trained to the technician level of the respective disciplines. Transporting all the equipment has been a concern for us, and we are currently working on a solution. I will notify all personnel when changes are made regarding transporting the equipment. It is my intent to make sure that everyone on the department becomes familiar with this equipment through training, and hands on experience. Being familiar with equipment will ensure that all of us function safely and efficiently, no matter what your level of training you currently have. Your crew may be first on scene to help, so don't limit your skill level. Thanks for all you do.

“Read Across America Day”

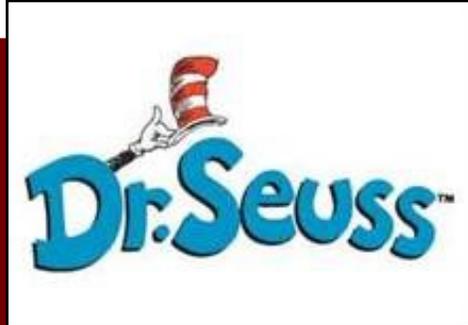


Dr. Seuss, whose real name was Ted Geisel, was born on March 2, 1910 and grew up in Springfield, Mass. He feasted on books and was wild about animals. Dr. Seuss lived three blocks from the library and six blocks from the zoo. He drew pictures of animals, even on his bedroom walls, as his mother encouraged him to be creative.

He didn't always fit in at school and couldn't find a job when he finished college, but he didn't get discouraged. Dr. Seuss started getting jobs writing cartoons for newspapers. Then he decided to try writing a book.

Dr. Seuss became an amazing author of children's books. Every year children across the county celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with “Read Across America Day”, an event developed by the national Education Association. Now in it's 16th year, the year-round Read Across America Program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources.

Lehi Elementary celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by having local officials and members of the community, including fire fighters and police officers, come read to the kids.



The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.
-Dr. Seuss



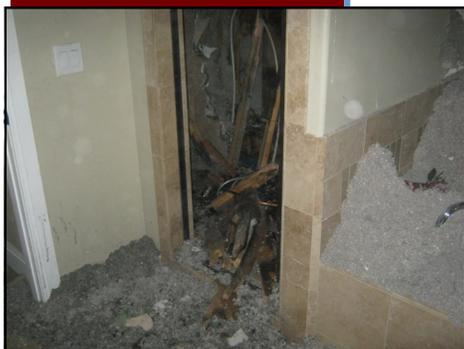
Firefighter Shad Hatfield

Featured Call

Engine 81, Ambulance 81, Tower 82, Ambulance 82, Battalion 81, Engine 261, Ambulance 262, Chief 81 and Fire Marshal 81 responded to a report of a house fire at 1519 South 825 West in Lehi at 4:30 P.M. on March 14, 2013. E-81 & A-81 arrived to find no smoke or flames showing from the exterior of the home and Captain Curwen established Lehi Command.

It was reported that the owners came home after being away for a few hours to find their home filled with light smoke, they mentioned that they had used the gas fireplace earlier in the day.

Battalion 81 arrived and assumed Lehi Command and assigned E-81 & A-81 to interior group with Captain Curwen as the group supervisor. Upon entry to the home crews found light white smoke on the 1st and 2nd floors. With the use of the thermal imaging camera a potential "hot spot" was found behind the wall in the master bathroom on the 1st floor. This was a wall that backed the gas fireplace which was located in the living room.



T-82 and A-82 arrived and were also assigned to interior group. By this time Engineer Wells had established a water supply at a hydrant and 2 attack lines were pulled to the front door of the home. T-82 located an attic access in the garage with light smoke coming out of it; they laddered the access and checked for fire that may have extended into the attic space. The attic space was cleared, no fire was found.

Saratoga Springs E-261 & A-262 arrived and were assigned as the rapid intervention team and secured the power, gas, and water utilities.



Meanwhile, interior group began pulling sheetrock in the master bathroom above the bathtub. As the wall and the ceiling were opened up the thickest smoke was found coming from behind the shower. Judging from the layout of the house, the gas fireplace was directly behind the tile wall in the shower. We began breaking through the tile with a flat head axe. A 1 square foot inspection hole was made

in the tile and burning insulation was found within the wall. The fire was extinguished and the overhaul process began. An approximate 5' x 5' section of the tile wall was brought down with a sledge hammer and flat head axe, this made for some intense work due to the tight space in the shower and the required use of our SCBA's. Floor runners were laid to minimize damage to the home and the overhauled materials were taken out of the house. Crews were rotated and rehabbed throughout the overhaul process.



Fire Marshall Evans conducted an investigation and at this time the cause of the fire is not being released.

Chief 81 responded to the scene with City Administrator Derek Todd. Chief Ekins was able to give City Administrator Todd a good insight of what actions were being performed at this working house fire.

This fire was definitely unique in the approach we had to take to make access to the fire. The crews worked efficiently and effectively to extinguish the fire and minimize damage to the home. Most importantly everyone went home safe!

Chief 81 – Dale Ekins

Battalion Chief 81 – Rick Howard

Engine 81 – Captain E. Curwen, Engineer R. Wells, FF/EMT T. Hover

Ambulance 81 – FF/Paramedic S. Hatfield, FF/Paramedic B. Beck

Tower 82 – Captain J. Beck, Engineer E. Hales, FF/EMT T. Dorton, FF/EMT C. Taylor

Ambulance 82 – FF/Paramedic B. Howard

Thank you to Saratoga Springs Engine 261 and Ambulance 262 for the mutual aid support!

Firefighter of the Quarter

We are proud to present the name of Engineer Jeffrey Smith for Lehi's Firefighter of the Quarter. In his nomination memo Captain Tim Robinson has this to say:

“Jeff is meticulous and thorough when it comes to his duties as an engineer. We never have to guess if the apparatus has been checked and is ready for service. His diligence ensures our safety. Jeff's ability to perform on scene exceeds standards. His abilities during high stress pump operations has proven his worth to our department. Jeff was one of the first to join Lehi Fire Department as a full time employee, and he has been part of the progressive process that has brought us to this point. His assistance and input help develop new ideas and concepts that benefit each of us. Jeff actively participates in the training division, SRT/ Haz-Mat, and wildland division. Jeff has also been working on completing his fire science degree through UVU. I am proud to have Jeff as a member of my crew, and someday(chief willing) he will get off the pump panel and fight fire with us.”

Congratulations Jeff on this well deserved award.



Engineer Jeff Smith

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Payroll	2	3	4	5	6 Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op - station 82
7	8	9	10	11 Officers Meeting Station 82 8:00am CERT—CPR Refresher Class	12	13 Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op - station 81 & 82
14	15 Payroll	16	17 Great ShakeOut	18	19	20 Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op - station 81 & 82
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op - station 81 & 82
28	29 Payroll	30				